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This patent application is a U.S. national filing that derives from International Patent Application PCT/US98/10804, filed on May 28, 1998, which claims priority to application Serial No. 08/864,765, filed on May 28, 1997 (now abandoned), which is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/595,387, filed on February 1, 1996 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,773,571), which is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/054,363, filed on April 26, 1993 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,539,082).

REMARKS

Claims 15-52 are pending in this application. The Advisory Action maintains an objection to the specification and a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

The Office Action objects to the continuing application data as amended in the Reply filed April 26, 2001, for not specifically indicating whether the current case is the U.S. national filing of International Patent Application PCT/US98/10804. Applicants believe the foregoing amendment renders this aspect of the objection moot. The Advisory Action also requires Applicants to indicate whether PCT/US98/10804 is a continuation or continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/864,765 (the 765 application). Inasmuch as PCT/US98/10804 is the international filing of the 765 application, however, it is neither. Applicants have already adequately described the relationship between the two applications by designating that PCT/US98/10804 "claims priority to" the 765 application. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the above amendment be entered and the objection to the specification based on this